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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
150 Broadway
New York 7, N.Y.

To: Farm Program Directors
From: Donald G. Lerch
Subject: WEEKLY REPORT ON "FEED SUPPLIES"

April 6, 1945

The latest reports of the War Food Administration say that there have been several small, if not spectacular, developments in the feed markets in the past week. The one that will have the most effect, of course, was the opening of pasturage of early spring. Animals have been turned out of pasture as far north as Pennsylvania. The box car situation has eased somewhat so that more grain is coming into the processing centers. Likewise wheat millfeed has moved out from the milling centers a little more promptly. Prices of butter and eggs have begun their seasonal declines. In March the egg-feed and the butterfat-feed ratios were less favorable than they were in February. But they are more favorable than they were a year ago.

Reports from all parts of the country indicate that the season so far is ahead of normal, many people saying that it is as much as three weeks ahead. Pasturage has, therefore, come early and with it the beginning of the decline in the amount of concentrates needed.

With more box cars available more wheat came into Buffalo and was ground with the result that the millers had more millfeed to allocate to orders already on their books. Though the supply of millfeeds was larger prices stayed right at the ceiling.

Demand for hay dropped so abruptly that a large number of shipments were diverted to Missouri valley markets; Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City. There team tracks were clogged and cars held for long overtime periods. However, a permit system of shipment enabled the railroads to get their cars unloaded and rolling again.

This is the time of year when egg and milk production goes up and prices for them come down. In March a dozen eggs would buy a little over 13 pounds of a standard ration as compared with a little over 14 pounds in February. A pound of butterfat would buy a little more than 25 pounds of feed ingredients as compared with 25 and a half pounds a month earlier.

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April 13, 1945

The general feed supply situation was slightly easier during the week ending April 10, according to reports to the War Food Administration. This reflected mild weather and early pastures. Available supplies of wheat millfeeds continued to increase, and shipments on previous bookings were also larger. Prices held firm at ceiling levels. Practically the same thing holds true for the oilseed cake and meal markets. Ground grain feeds were more plentiful. Demand for these was only fair, and prices dropped off a little. Most other by-product feeds were still short of trade needs.

Farm pastures are off to the earliest start in the 22 years for which we have April 1 records. This is the result of generally ample soil moisture, and unusually warm March weather.

Farm stocks of principal feed grains totaled around $46\frac{1}{2}$ million tons on the first of April. That was 7 million tons larger than on the same date last year. Corn made up $37\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of this amount...oats, almost 7 million tons...and barley, a little over 2 million tons. No figures are available on stocks of grain sorghums. However, the amount of sorghums harvested for grain this season was more than 2 million tons larger than the 1943 production. This points to larger farm stocks of this grain on April 1, than a year earlier.

Farm disappearance of the main feed grains from the start of the respective crop years to April 1 was about 8 million tons under the same period last year. It amounted to a little over 70 million tons. This reduced disappearance reflects mainly the decrease in livestock numbers this season.

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To: Farm Program Directors
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April 20, 1945

Continued mild weather and early pastures in many areas cut demand for feeds during the week ending April 17, and prices of the principal by-product feeds held firm at maximum levels, according to reports to the War Food Administration. Wheat millfeed output was large, but most of this was going to fill previous contracts. Current offerings were only moderate, but were large enough to take care of the most urgent needs.

Oilseed cake and meal was more plentiful, and supplies were about sufficient to satisfy the most urgent demands, with the exception of linseed meal. Soybean crushers were catching up on back orders, as transportation facilities improved. Steadily increasing soybean meal production during the war period has greatly enlarged supplies of oilseed meals. During the 1943-44 season, the output amounted to over half the total oilseed meal supplies. During the 5 years from 1931 to 1935, soybean meal production averaged only 10 percent of the total oilseed meal supplies.

Oilseed meals have held unchanged at ceiling prices since August 1943. At these levels, however, soybean meal at the main markets was 59 percent higher on the average than during the 10 years from 1934 to 1943. Cottonseed meal was 63 percent over the 10-year average, linseed meal 30 percent above average.

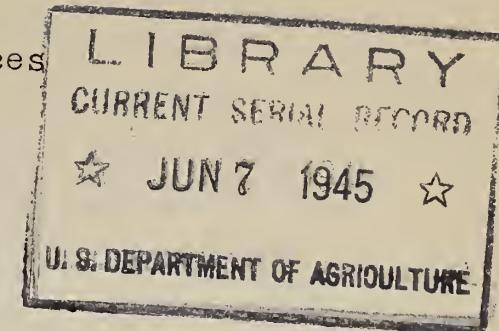
Demand for gluten feed and meal is still considerably in excess of the available supply. Allocations were mostly on the basis of last season's shipments. Hominy feeds were steady, although offerings were fairly liberal, with some selling pressure on the market. Demand was generally slow.

Brewers and distillers dried grain markets held about unchanged, with demand still in excess of available supplies. Suncured alfalfa meal offerings were fairly liberal, with prices somewhat below ceiling. March alfalfa meal production totaled almost 50 million tons. About 47 million tons of this total were suncured.

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To: Farm Program Directors
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April 27, 1945

The feed supply situation continued to ease up, and inquiry was less urgent during the week ending April 24, according to the War Food Administration.

Wheat millfeed supplies continued to improved during the week. Output was large, and with improved transportation, shipments on previous bookings moved out in increased quantities. Current wheat millfeed offerings, through the usual trade channels, remained relatively small, but there were enough supplies on hand in many areas to meet trade needs.

Oilseed cake and meal supplies were more plentiful, with the exception of linseed meal. Demand continued fairly active, with prices holding firm at the ceiling. Cottonseed meal supplies showed a slight increase, and some business was reported for shipment to eastern areas.

Gluten feed and meal markets were about unchanged. Demand was not quite so urgent, but was still in excess of available supplies. Hominy food markets were quiet, with offerings large. Some selling pressure on the market reflected more plentiful supplies of corn and increased offerings of other feed grains.

Distillers' dried grains continued firm. Allocations on there was about the same as in recent weeks. Brewers' dried grains were also active, with not enough supplies available for the demand. Tankage and meat scraps continued tight.

